

Message Text

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SUBJ: CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ'S DISCUSSION WITH INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ' DISCUSSION WITH INDIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER CHAVAN ON DECEMBER 2 TOOK THE FORM OF A

SERIES OF DIRECT QUESTIONS ON THE PART OF CONGRESSMAN
SOLARZ AND RELATIVELY SHORT ANSWERS BY CHAVAN. MUCH OF
THE GROUND COVERED WAS NOT NEW BUT THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES
BY CHAVAN ARE OF SOME INTEREST.

2. PAKISTANI NUCLEAR POLICY: ASKED IF INDIA WOULD BE CONCERNED
AT A PAKISTANI NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, CHAVAN REPLIED THAT
INDIA'S POSITION WOULD DEPEND ON THE PAKISTANI POLICY
REGARDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IN REGARD TO PAKISTANI INTEREST
IN A REPROCESSING PLANT, CHAVAN SAID INDIA HAS NO
SPECIAL VIEWS OR COMMENTS.

3. MIDDLE EAST - ASKED ABOUT HIS VIEWS ON A SETTLEMENT,
CHAVAN SAID AN ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE AT A GENEVA CONFERENCE.
ASKED ABOUT HIS OPINION OF THE PLO PROPOSAL FOR A SECULAR
DEMOCRATIC STATE IN ISRAEL AS A SOLUTION, CHAVAN SAID
INDIA HAD RECOGNIZED ISRAEL AND WOULD NOT SUPPORT SUCH
A PROPOSAL.

4. SOUTHERN AFRICA: CHAVAN SAID IT WAS GOOD THAT THE
PRESENT CONFERENCE IN GENEVA WAS BEING HELD BECAUSE OTHER-
WISE A CONFLICT WAS UNAVOIDABLE.

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5. DIEGO GARCIA AND BERBERA: CHAVAN SAID INDIA WAS "TOTALLY OPPOSED" TO DIEGO GARCIA AS IT HAS INFORMED THE USG. ASKED IF THE GOI HAS EXPRESSED A VIEW TO THE SOVIET'S ON THEIR FACILITIES AT ERBERJTN CHAVAN SAID YES AND THEY HAD REPLIED THAT THEY HAD NO FACILITY AND NO INTENTION TO ESTABLISH BASES. ASKED IF HE BELIEVED THIS, CHAVAN SAID WHEN A FRIEND SAYS THIS PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY AT THE UN, IT MUST BE BELIEVED.

6. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE: ASKED WHAT THE US MIGHT DO TO ASSIST IN INDIAN DEVELOPMENT, CHAVAN REPLIED THAT INDIA PLACED GREAT VALUE IN IDA AND ITS FUTURE DEPENDS MOSTLY ON WHAT THE US DOES, THERE WERE, HOWEVER, NEW PROBLEMS BEING DISCUSSED BY THE GROUP OF 77 SUCH AS DEBT AND TRADE. THESE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ECKHER BILATERAL OR MULTI-LATERAL AID.

7. CIEC: CHAVAN SAID THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT HAD CREATED AN OPTIMISTIC FELLING BUT THE CIEC MEETINGS HAD NOT PROCEEDED AS EXPECTED. PROGRESS HAD NOT BEEN SATISFACTORY BECAUSE THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES LACKED THE POLITICAL WILL TO MAKE DECISIONS.

8. US ARMS SUPPLY POLICY: ASKED IF THE GOI OBJECTED TO THE SALE OF A-7'S OR TO ANY SALE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, CHAVAN SAID THAT DURING THE LAST YEAR THE US HAD SHOWN SOME RESTRAINT IN SALES AND THIS HAD HELPED IN THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN, BUT A SALE OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS WOULD INCREASE SUSPICIONS.

9. BANGLADESH: INFORMED OF GENERAL ZIA'S CONCERN OVER DIVERSION OF FARAKKA WATERS AND INFILTRATION FROM INDIA, CHAVAN COMMENTED THAT BANGLADESHI SUSPICIONS ARE IMAGINARY. WHEN THERE ARE TROUBLES IN BANGLADESH THE GOVERNMENT THERE WANTS INDIA AS A SCAPEGOAT. CHAVAN SAID INDIA IS INTERESTED IN THE STABILITY OF BANGLADESH AND THERE WOULD BE NO POINT IN DESTABILIZATION AS SUBVERSION WOULD SPILL OVER INTO INDIA. HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE BANGLADESHI ARMY WOULD NOW BE MORE COHESIVE THAN BEFORE. HE NOTED THE COMING DISCUSSION ON FARAKKA BUT MADE NO COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE. CHAVAN SAID THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOI WAS "VERY GLAD" ABOUT THE RECENT TALK BETWEEN THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND SECRETARY KISSINGER ON FARAKKA. INDIA CONSIDERED THIS A BILATERAL MATTER. CHAVAN SAID THAT HE "MUST SAY A WORD OF APPRECIATION" FOR THE SECRETARY'S POSITION. SCHNEIDER

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